

## SENATE BILL NO. 475

INTRODUCED BY J. ESP

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING NOTICE OF OIL AND GAS LEASE SALES; AND  
SETTING A NOMINATION DEADLINE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Notice of lease sale required. (1) Within 15 days of the previous oil and  
gas lease sale, the department shall publish the date and place of the upcoming sale in a publication of general  
circulation in Montana and on the department's website.

(2) (a) The department shall accept nominations of tracts for an upcoming sale until ~~70~~ 77 days prior to  
the date of the sale.

(b) Upon receipt of a nomination by the department, the location of the tracts is public information.

(3) At least twice, the department shall publish a notice containing the time and place of the sale, a  
statement that all sales will be by competitive oral bidding, and ~~a description of each tract~~ THE NUMBER OF TRACTS  
IN EACH COUNTY offered for sale at the time of the notice on the department's website and in a publication of  
general circulation in Montana:

(a) not ~~more~~ LESS than 63 days before the date of an upcoming sale; and

(b) ~~not more than~~ BETWEEN 21 days AND 35 DAYS before the date of the sale.

(4) In a publication of general circulation in each county where a tract is nominated for sale, the  
department shall publish a notice in compliance with subsection (3), except that each notice only needs to contain  
~~a description and an area map~~ THE NUMBER of tracts nominated for sale in that county AND NOTICE THAT A  
DESCRIPTION AND MAPS OF TRACTS NOMINATED ARE AVAILABLE ON THE DEPARTMENT'S WEBSITE.

(5) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PUBLISH ON ITS WEBSITE A DESCRIPTION AND MAPS OF ALL TRACTS TO BE OFFERED  
FOR SALE.

~~(5)(b)~~ (6)(b) (a) Except as provided in subsection ~~(5)(b)~~ (6)(b), the department shall provide notice by ~~certified~~  
FIRST-CLASS mail to surface owners of a tract being offered for sale using the most current known property owners  
of record as shown in the records of the county clerk and recorder of the county where the tract is located.

(b) The notice in subsection ~~(5)(a)~~ (6)(A) is not required if the surface is managed by the department

1 pursuant to Title 77, chapter 1.

2 ~~(6)(7)~~ The notice required by subsection ~~(5)~~ (6) must contain the time and place of the sale, a statement  
3 that all sales will be by competitive oral bidding, and a description and area map of each tract offered for sale.

4  
5 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Notification to tribal governments.** The secretary of state shall send a  
6 copy of [this act] to each tribal government located on the seven Montana reservations and to the Little Shell  
7 Chippewa tribe.

8  
9 NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an  
10 integral part of Title 77, chapter 3, part 4, and the provisions of Title 77, chapter 3, part 4, apply to [section 1].

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